

REMARKS

This application is amended in a manner to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Status of the Claims

Claims 4, 12 and 14 are amended

Claims 4-21 were pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-21 were objected to because the term "the base" appeared to lack antecedent basis.

Accordingly, the independent claims 4, 12 and 14 have been amended to provide basis for this term. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, on page 4, lines 19-25.

Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowed claims 14-21.

Conclusion

In view of the amendment to the claims, this application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next

Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our credit card which is being paid online simultaneously herewith for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Robert A. Madsen/
Robert A. Madsen, Reg. No. 58,543
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

RAM/fb